



Institute of Evolutionary Medicine (IEM)

Annual Report 2025 – Management Summary (English Version)

During the reporting year, the Institute for Evolutionary Medicine (IEM) once again strengthened its position as a unique international institution (with around 40 staff members). This was achieved in particular through numerous local and international research and teaching collaborations.

Over 50 scientific articles were published during the reporting year, for example in PNAS, the American Journal of Epidemiology, Annals of Internal Medicine, the Journal of Human Evolution, etc. Two UZH press releases (birth rate during the COVID-19 pandemic; historical genome of the Spanish flu) were published.

External funding was also secured again during the reporting year, and several projects funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) were underway. The number of seminar talks, symposia, research projects and supervisory committees for Master's and PhD theses involving clinicians continued to rise (there are currently around 30 clinicians acting as collaboration partners).

Highlights during the reporting year included the celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of the Swiss Mummy Project (now part of the IEM) and, once again, the Institute's research activities, which attracted global attention.

In the area of teaching, the scope was essentially maintained, and the teaching was once again rated as 'very good' by the majority of students. In 2025, a large number of qualification theses were also completed at the IEM. For the first time – and thus almost unique worldwide – evolutionary medicine was taught as a fixed component of the core curriculum in human medicine.

Improved allocation of space at the essential Irchel site remains crucial for the future development of the IEM; during the reporting year, a new storage room was taken into use here.

Gender equality and the sustainable promotion of early-career researchers are explicit objectives at the IEM.

Finally, IEM staff were involved in numerous scientific and non-university committees and services, which is important for the Institute's positive outreach.

The Institute Director's ongoing, time-consuming commitment as Dean of the UZH Faculty of Medicine – a position to which he was re-elected in 2025 – continues to have a major influence on the Institute. The Institute Director also co-leads the UZH Centre for Crisis Competence and serves as Ambassador/Co-Director of the AAHCI European Regional Office, whilst playing an active role in the management of the UZH One Health Institute.